

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A release mechanism for an interface to enable a user to quickly remove said interface from said users' face, comprising or including:
at least one strap having two ends where one end in use is flexibly coupled to ~~releasably connecting means~~ releasable connector provided at least on one side of said mask, and the other of said two ends flexibly coupled to a mask attachment means at the other side of said mask, said strap extending around the back of the user's head,
a cord attached to said releasable connector that ~~connecting means which~~ when said mask is in use and said cord is pulled by said user said releasable connector ~~connecting means~~ causes said at least one strap to be released from said mask thereby causing said mask to fall from said users' face.
2. (Original) A release mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said interface is a full face mask.
3. (Currently Amended) A release mechanism according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein said ~~releasably connecting means~~ releasable connector harnessing clip comprising a male connector and female connector capable of being coupled together.
4. (Original) A release mechanism according to claim 3 wherein one of said two ends of said at least one strap is attached to one of said male connector and said female connector.
5. (Currently Amended) A release mechanism according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 3 to or 4 wherein the other one of said male connector and said female connector is flexibly attached to said mask.

6. (Currently Amended) A release mechanism according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 5 wherein said flexible attachment is achieved by a sliding engaging means engagement adapted to ~~slidingly~~ engage one of said male connector and said female connector with said mask.

7. (Currently Amended) A release mechanism according to claim 6 wherein said ~~engaging means~~ sliding engagement is adapted to allow said at least one strap substantial movement with respect to said mask while still providing a compressive force to seal said mask to said users' face.

8. (Currently Amended) A release mechanism according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 6 or 7 wherein said ~~engaging means~~ sliding engagement includes an elongate member slidably engaged to said interface and engaged to at least one releasably connecting means.

9. (Currently Amended) A release mechanism according to claim 8 wherein said elongate member ~~is elongate having~~ has a first end and a second end, a closed loop located at said first end and said harnessing clip located at said second end.

10. (Currently Amended) A release mechanism according to claim 9 wherein said closed loop and one of said male connector and said female connector of said harnessing clip are integrally formed with said elongate member.

11. (Currently Amended) A release mechanism according to claim 6 wherein said ~~engaging means~~ sliding engagement is a loop adapted to pass over and slidingly engage with

said interface.

12. (Currently Amended) A release mechanism according to claim 8 or 11 wherein said sliding engagement-engaging means includes a restraining ~~means~~ member, said restraining ~~means~~ member adapted to in use accommodate said elongate member or said loop, said restraining ~~means~~ member adapted in use to restrain said member or said loop in at least one dimension, but allow said member or said loop to slide easily within at least one other dimension, said restraining ~~member~~ means adapted to in use easily disengage with said elongate member or said loop.

13. (Currently Amended) A release mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said mask attachment means is a loop in which one of said two ends of said strap can be attached to.

14. (Currently Amended) A release mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said mask attachment means is a ~~releasably connecting means~~ releasable connector.

15. (Currently Amended) A mask having a release mechanism that enables a user to quickly remove said mask from said user's face, comprising or including:

at least one strap having two ends each adapted to, in use, be flexibly coupled to releasable ~~connecting means~~ connector at least on one side of said mask and a mask attachment ~~means~~ at the other side of said mask, and around the back of the user's head,

a cord attached to said releasable connector ~~connecting means~~, ~~at least one of said attachment means, which that~~ when said mask is in use and said cord is pulled by said user said releasable ~~connecting means~~ connector causes said at least one strap to be released from said mask thereby causing said mask to fall from said user's face.

16. (Currently Amended) A patient interface for delivering a supply of gases to a user comprising or including:

headgear ~~securement means~~ attached to or around the head of said user,
a sliding engagement ~~engaging means~~ adapted to ~~slidingly~~ engage said ~~securement~~
~~means~~ headgear with said patient interface,
release mechanism coupled between said ~~securement means~~ headgear and said sliding
engagement ~~that~~ ~~engaging means~~ ~~which~~ when actuated by said user causes the separation of
said sliding engagement ~~engaging means~~ and said ~~securement means~~ headgear.

17. (Currently Amended) A patient interface according to claim 16 wherein said release mechanism comprises or includes:

a harnessing clip comprising a male connector and a female connector capable of being coupled together, one of said male connector and said female connector attached to said ~~securement means~~ headgear, and

a cord attached to the other of said male connector and said female connector, which when said interface is in use and said cord is pulled by said user said male connector and said female connector are disengaged and said ~~securement means~~ headgear released from said mask thereby causing said mask to fall from said user's face.

18. (Currently Amended) A patient interface according to ~~claims~~ claim 16 ~~or 17~~ wherein said sliding engagement ~~engaging means~~ comprises or includes:

an elongate member slidably engaged to said interface, and
restraining ~~means~~ member, ~~said restraining means~~ adapted to in use accommodate
said elongate member, said restraining ~~means~~ member adapted in use to restrain said elongate

member in at least one dimension, but allow said member to slide easily within at least one other dimension, said restraining member means adapted to in use easily disengage with said elongate member.

19. (Currently Amended) A patient interface according to claim 18 wherein said elongate member ~~is elongate having~~ has a first end and a second end, a closed loop located at said first end and said harnessing clip at said second end.

20. (Original) A patient interface according to claim 11 wherein said closed loop and one of said male connector and said female connector of said harnessing clip are integrally formed with said elongate member.

21. (Currently Amended) A patient interface according to ~~claims~~ claim 16 ~~or 17~~ wherein said sliding engaging means engagement comprises or includes:

a loop adapted to pass over and slidingly engage with said interface, and
restraining member means, ~~said restraining means~~ adapted to in use accommodate said loop, said restraining ~~means~~ member adapted in use to restrain said loop in at least one dimension, but allow said loop to slide easily within at least one other dimension, said restraining means adapted to in use easily disengage with said loop.

22. (Original) A patient interface according to claim 21 wherein said loop is elliptical in shape having a first end and a second end where a closed loop is located at said first end and said harnessing clip is located at said second end.

23. (Original) A patient interface according to claim 22 wherein said closed loop and one

of said male connector and said female connector of said harnessing clip are integrally formed with said loop.

24. Cancelled

25. Cancelled

26. Cancelled